

## REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action dated February 8, 2008, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicants have amended claims 1-4 and added new claims 5-20 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the presently-claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims and the new claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification. Applicants have also amended the Abstract for purposes of clarity and respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the amendment to the specification.

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2004/0156495 to Chava, et al. (hereinafter "Chava") is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Chava discloses a intermediary network system for facilitating message exchange between wireless networks. Message exchange between two subscribers or the same or different networks may involve lookups of subscriber data, message transformations and routing decisions. The Office Action cites principally to the flow diagram of Fig. 5 describing decisions as to whether a telephone number (TN) is an international number and whether a destination country supports number portability and resultant steps.

Independent claim 1 recites a multimedia message service apparatus including first decision means that, when receiving a multimedia message that has been transmitted, references an international prefix table to decide whether or not the message is to be transmitted

internationally to a forwarding destination, based on transmission destination information in the multimedia message. If the first decision means decides that the message is to be transmitted to the forwarding destination, second decision means references a first routing table based on the transmission destination information to decide whether or not the forwarding destination supports number portability. If the second decision means decides that the forwarding destination does not support number portability, first acquisition means acquires the domain name of the forwarding destination from the transmission destination information by referencing said first routing table. If the second decision means decides that the forwarding destination does support number portability, second acquisition means acquires international identification information corresponding to the transmission destination information by inquiring registration means that registers subscriber data and acquires the domain name of the forwarding destination by referencing a second routing table based on the international identification information that has thus been acquired. Forwarding means forwards the multimedia message to the forwarding destination of the domain name that has been acquired by the first acquisition means or the second acquisition means. Claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1.

Applicants' independent claims recite that a first routing table is used to determine if number portability of a forwarding destination, in connection with international transmission of a multimedia message. If number portability is not supported, then transmission destination information in the multimedia message is used along with the first routing table to obtain information identifying the forwarding destination, such as a domain name. If number portability is not supported, then international identification information is obtained and used with a second routing table to obtain the information identifying the forwarding destination, such

as the domain name. Applicants have found that multimedia message servicing is beneficially facilitated for international transmission of a multimedia message according to determinations of number portability and resultant information acquisition, as noted above and recited by Applicants. (See, for example, page 15, lines 12-25 of the originally-filed English specification).

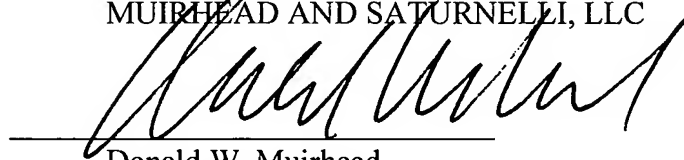
Applicants respectfully submit that Chava does not teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as claimed by Applicants. Specifically, in Fig. 5, cited in the Office Action, Chava does not disclose the use of the first routing table and second routing table, as recited by Applicants, depending on whether number portability is supported by the forwarding destination. Applicants point out that the results of Chava's decision step 5.9 concerning whether a destination country support number portability discloses the resultant actions as either obtaining mobile network code from the telephone number (step 5.10) or performing SS7 routing information lookup and extracting information (step 5.11). Applicants note that the system recited by Applicants uses the recited first routing table and second routing table in addition to, and in connection with, either transmission information from the multimedia message or international identifying information that is acquired, and note further that the first routing table contains information indicating whether the number portability was supported by the forwarding destination.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Chava does not teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as claimed by Applicants. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Further, Applicants have added new claims 5-20 and, in accordance with the remarks set forth above, submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,  
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